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# WAC Goes Green: The Unique Information Literacy Tasks of a Sustainability-Related Composition Course

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# WAC Goes Green

## The Unique Information Literacy Tasks of a Sustainability-Related Composition Course

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# WAC at AUM

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- Spring 2009: AUM pilots WAC program in English Composition
- Three areas of second semester composition
  - Science
  - Popular Culture
  - International Studies



# WAC at AUM

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- ENGL 1020 pilot course focused on **sustainability** (science area)
- Research-based composition
  - Evaluation of one source
  - Comparison of two sources
  - Synthesis of three sources
  - Persuasion involving four+ sources



# WAC-Specific Tasks

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- Using science-focused databases
- Evaluating speakers on sustainability
- Researching local “green” issues



# WAC Tasks: Science Databases

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- Greenfile
  - <http://www.greeninfoonline.com>
  - “[F]ocus[es] on the relationship between human beings and the environment”
  - Familiar EBSCO interface
  - Free access



# WAC Tasks: Science Databases

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- Science Direct

- <http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

- “[F]ull-text scientific database offering articles/chapters from more than 2,500 peer-reviewed journals and more than 10,000 books”

- Unique interface

- Limited guest access



# WAC Tasks: Green Speakers

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- Montgomery Humane Society
  - Mary Hughes, Humane Education
- AUM Green Alliance
  - Karlen McCree, President
- Student task: identify elements of argument in presentations
- iTunes U
  - <http://www.apple.com/education/mobile-learning/>





# WAC Tasks: Local Green Issues

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- Locating sources
  - Newspaper Source by EBSCO
  - Local newspapers' archives
  - State/local government information
  - Primary source research
  - Personal experience



# WAC Tasks: Local Green Issues

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- Sampling of student topics and sources
  - Eating locally grown food – university newspaper
  - Preserving Cahaba River Valley – the Cahaba River Society
  - Sustainable products for Homebuilders – Southern Living, personal experience



# Pilot Program Results

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- Sustainability-based 1020 taught again summer 2009
- Materials to be used in future courses
- WAC composition program integrated at AUM starting Fall 2009

